

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT ROBIN WRIGHT BYLINER WASHINGTON
POST SEPTEMBER 17 HEADED "BREAKTHROUGH SEEN IN NAMIBIA."

2. WINDHOEK, NAIBIA, SEPT. 16 (SPECIAL TO THE WASH-
INGTON POST) -- DRAMATIC MOVES TO BREAK A DEADLOCK OVER
NEGOTIATIONS OD THE INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA (SOUTHWEST
AFRICA) ARE BEING PLANNED HERE IN AN EFFORT TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE KISSINGER INITIATIVE IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA AND GAIN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE DIS-
PUTED TERRITORY.

3. THE EXPECTED MOVES HAVE LED TO AN AIR OF OPTIMISM
THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN OE FOUND, THUS AVOIDING
THE GROWING PROSPECT OF ESCALATED GUERILLA WARFARE WITH
THE POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET OR CUBAN INTERVENTION ON THE
SIDE OF THE MILITANT SOUTHWEST AFRICA PEOPLE.S ORGANI-
ZATION (SWAPO) FROM BASES IN NEIGHBORING NAMIBIA.

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4. DELEGATES TO THE LONG-STYMIED CONSTITUTIONAL CON-

REFERENCE SAID TODAY THAT THE BREAKTHROUGH WILL INVOLVE:
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--ADVANCING THE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE BY ONE YEAR TO
DECEMBER 1977;
--A MEETING SOON WITH SWAPO, PROBABLY IN GENEVA, TO
IRON OUT DISPUTES;
--INSTALLATION OF A STRONG UNITARY GOVERNMENT OF THE
COUNTRY.S 11 ETHNIC GROUPS, INSTEAD OF A CONFEDERATION
OF MINI-STATES PREFERRED BY SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH ADMI-
NISTERS NAMIBIA UNDER AN EXPIRED LEAGUE OF NATIONS MAN-
DATE DESPITE UNITED NATIONS OPPOSITION.

5. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE SOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIA
DISPUTE IS THE ONLY AREA WHERE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE
HENRY A. KISSINGER CAN REASONABLY EXPECT TO BE SUC-
CESSFUL ON HIS SOUTHERN AFRICA PEACE MISSION. CON-
FERENCE DELEGATES HOPE KISSINGER WILL HELP ARRANGE A
MEETING BETWEEN SWAPO LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL GROUP.

6. DELEGATES HERE SAY KISSINGER IS EXPECTED TO MEET
WITH SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA DURING HIS AFRICAN
TRIP, IN AN EFFORT TO CONVINCE HIM OF THE NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

7. SWAPO CLAIMS IT IS THE ONLY LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. THE NATIONALIST ORGANIZATION HAS
REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WINDHOEK CONFERENCE BE-
CAUSE THE 11 DELEGATIONS WERE CHOSEN ON A TRIBAL BASIS.
THEY REPRESENT NAMIBIA.S 11 ETHNIC GROUPS -- ONE WHITE,
TWO MIXED RACE AND EIGHT BLACK.

8. TROUBLE IN BRINGING THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER COULD
STALL U.N. DEBATE ON NAMIBIA, EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEXT
WEEK. SWAPO HAS SAID IT WILL BID FOR GOVERNMENT-IN-
EXILE STATUS, WHICH WOULD NULLIFY THE HOPES FOR LEGITI-
MACY OF THE CONFERENCE HERE.

9. WINDHOEK DELEGATES FEEL THE THREE MOVES WILL LEAD
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TO INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR SOLUTION, BY
PROVING THEIR INTENT TO BREAK COMPLETELY FROM SOUTH
AFRICA ON THEIR OWN TERMS AND BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE
IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING SWAPO IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.
THEY ALSO SAY A CONSTITUTION -- NOT YET DRAFTED BUT
KNOWN IN ROUGH FORM -- WOULD WIN IN A REFERENDUM.

10. THE FORMULA AS CURRENTLY OUTLINED, CALLS FOR A

STRONG PRIME MINISTER, FIGUREHEAD PRESIDENT AND AN ASSEMBLY OF 44 MEMBERS -- FOUR FROM EACH OF THE 11 ETHNIC GROUPS. BOTH THE LEADERS AND THE CABINET

WOULD BE ELECTED BY THE ASSEMBLY.

11. HOWEVER, IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE THAT SWAPO WOULD NOT AGREE TO A UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE. SWAPO IS DOMINATED BY THE NORTHERN OVAMBA TRIBE, THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST WITH 46 PER CENT OF THE 750,000 POPULATION. ITS LEADERSHIP WOULD NOT WANT TO BE REPRESENTED ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH THE BUSHMEN, AT LESS THAN 2 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION.

12. BUT THE DELEGATES ARE NOT OPPOSED TO A BICAMERAL SYSTEM, WHICH ONE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT DESCRIBED AS A POSSIBLE "POINT FOR NEGOTIATION."

13. THE CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ADJOURNED TODAY, WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE "PROPER AUTHORITIES" -- THE SOUTH AFRICANS, WHO WILL GOVERN THE TERRITORY UNTIL AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS INSTALLED -- BE SENT A LIST OF THE RESOLUTIONS FOR "URGENT ACTION."

14. THE SCHEDULE NOW CALLS FOR ANOTHER THREE-WEEK SESSION BEGINNING OCT. 5. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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